

# ***COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FOR THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE***

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## **Sweeting's Landing Housing Development Nears Completion**

Sweeting's Landing, a new residential development located on the New River is almost complete. The waterfront project is being developed by the City of Fort Lauderdale in partnership with local builder Bob Young and Lennar Homes. Eight homes have been completed by Lennar and two additional homes will be built by Bob Young. The homes are located at NW 23rd Avenue and NW 4th street. All of the homes have been sold.



*This two story home is one of the new homes built in Sweeting's Landing*



Community Redevelopment Agency, 101 NE 3rd Avenue,  
Suite 300, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.  
For more information, contact the CRA at (954) 828-4514.

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## Dorsey Riverbend Model Home Row Almost Completed



*This home and the two above are homes that are part of Dorsey Model Home Row.*

**M**

odel Home Row, located in the Dorsey Riverbend neighborhood, is near completion. The project was initiated in 2002 by the CRA in partnership with the City of Fort Lauderdale's

Office of Housing and Community Development. Together they purchased sixteen lots in and around Walker Elementary School, creating a focal point that will showcase the potential for infill development in the Dorsey Riverbend Community.

The Model Home Row project provides the opportunity to preview six single family home options on land that was once underutilized.

Through a bid process the CRA selected two developers for this project, MoHomes, LLC and DeAngelo Development, both of whom live and work in the community.

CRA Staff worked closely with the developers to ensure quality and variation in design. The homes are competitive in architectural design, character and amenities with other new homes across Broward County. Each developer's designs are unique, embracing features required by the CRA such as front porches, interior knock-down finishes, tile roofs, and a



*This single story home, with lush landscaping, paved walkway and barrel-tile roof, is one of the homes already built in Dorsey Riverbend.*

stamped concrete driveway. The developers have each focused on building quality homes and enhancing them with features and amenities that create their trademarks in building.

All of the model homes are available for viewing and for purchase within the next few months. For information about the City's home ownership assistance programs, call the Office of Housing and Community Development at (954) 828-4527.

Additional lots are available and can be purchased directly through one of the developers. For more information, please contact the CRA Office at (954) 828-4514.

## Longtime Board Member William Cone Will Be Missed

William J. Cone, long-standing member of the CRA advisory board, passed away in August 2005. He was a leading businessman and community activist in Northwest Fort Lauderdale for decades. Many will remember Mr. Cone for his warm smile, his keen insight and his passion for revitalizing Northwest Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. Cone owned Cone Plaza on Sistrunk Boulevard, which was home to his Hat and Cap Emporium since 1956. He also ran a printing shop at the back of what used to be Wright's department store.

Born near Statesville, Georgia, Mr. Cone served in the U.S. Army after graduating from

high school. He came to Fort Lauderdale in the early 1950s.

Mr. Cone served on many advisory boards and was a founding member of the Midtown Business Association, an organization for the merchants in Northwest Fort Lauderdale. He was also a deacon and trustee at Mount Olive Baptist Church.

# The History of Sistrunk Boulevard

**I**n the early years, Fort Lauderdale's black community was served by three black pioneer doctors: James Franklin Sistrunk, who arrived in 1921; Von D. Mizell, who followed in 1937; and dentist James Lynnwood Bass, who came in 1938. All three graduated from Meharry Medical College in Nashville and set up practices in Broward during an era when public facilities, including hospitals, were heavily segregated.

Although the archives of the Fort

Northwest Sixth Street. The Commission unanimously approved the request, and in September 1971 passed an ordinance to that effect.

The Sistrunk Historical Festival is a cultural event celebrating the accomplishments of African descendants. In 1980, Dr. James Sistrunk and his colleagues, founded Provident Hospital, the first hospital for blacks in Broward County. It was a small frame house with fifteen beds located at 1409 Northwest Sixth Street and they held a two-day dedication ceremony to commemorate the completion of this historical building. A parade and formal dedication program highlighted the first Festival on November 8-9, 1980. Anzie Taylor Morton, Treasurer of the United States, was guest speaker and Grand Marshall of the parade.

Due to the positive impact the festival had on the community, the festival has continued. With the help and support of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Broward County and Northwestern Businessman Association, the festival was broadened to include the entire county.

The City of Fort Lauderdale's Community Redevelopment Agency is working with the community to revitalize Sistrunk Boulevard. The Midtown Business Association has carried on the tradition of the



*This rendering depicts the plans for the redevelopment of Sistrunk Boulevard.*

“ The CRA is working with the community to revitalize Sistrunk Boulevard ”

Lauderdale Historical Society carry no mention of Dr. James Franklin Sistrunk, and despite the fact that he was the first black medical doctor in the city and the only one for almost 16 years, "kindly old Doc Sistrunk" is very much alive in the memory of the Black community. Residents of his community requested the City of Fort Lauderdale Commission add the name of West Sistrunk Boulevard to

Northwestern Businessman Association to encourage entrepreneurship in the African-American community, especially along Sistrunk Boulevard.

*Submitted by the Midtown Business Association*  
Sources:

- My Soul Is a Witness, by Deborah Work, Copyright 2001 by Old Dillard Foundation, Inc.
- Black Pioneers in Broward County, Edited by the Links, Inc., Fort Lauderdale, FL – 1976
- The Sistrunk Historical Festival is a non-profit corporation, recognized as a 501.c.3 organization by the IRS. Its goal is to celebrate the history, culture, and contributions of African descendants

## Front Porch Helps Homeowners Upgrade Property

▶ In 1999, when Governor Jeb Bush designated a section of Northwest Fort Lauderdale a Front Porch Community, residents and community stakeholders formed the Dorsey Riverbend Revitalization Council (Front Porch Council) to carry out activities associated with the Governor's Front Porch initiative. Since then, the Front Porch Council has partnered with local organizations to implement programs designed to improve the quality of life for residents in the Front Porch community. Projects include replacing doors

and windows, training, replacing roofs, mortgage assistance, community fairs, crime watch assistance, community clean-ups and house paintings.

At the request of various community members and local homeowners' associations, Front Porch is now installing sod in the yards of residents of the Front Porch Community.

"Front Porch has been very helpful in assisting residents in becoming code compliant with respect to their sod issues," said



# Light Still Burns After 57 Years

“I just wanted to make good in my community...and I have been encouraged by others to stay.”

Those are the sentiments of George Burrows, owner of Burrows Electric, which sits on the corner of 15th Avenue and Sistrunk Boulevard, in the heart of Northwest Fort Lauderdale.

After 57 years, Burrows still gets to the office at 5:30 a.m., ready to start the day. Many years ago, his mission was to provide for himself and his family and provide a service to the Northwest Fort Lauderdale community. Today he continues to work, simply because he enjoys being active, and he still enjoys serving a community that now includes all of Broward County.

Burrows gets a twinkle in his eye when he reminisces about days gone by, when he was a young man starting out.

“My first customer was Mr. Levi Monroe,” he said. “He told me, ‘when you

get out of school, I’m going to let you wire my house.’” Monroe made good on his

“Today, Burrows has three electricians and personally visits each work site to supervise a job.”

promise after Burrows finished studying at Bethune Cookman-College; and paid him about \$100 for the job. Today that job would pay about \$2,000.

Things were simpler then and Burrows can remember going to and from client’s homes on a used bicycle with “a basket on the front and a basket on the back.” Since he was only allowed to work in segregated Northwest Fort Lauderdale, his bicycle was all he needed. He talks fondly of Northwest Fort Lauderdale, which was a bustling commercial center, with many

types of businesses, including gas stations, beauty shops, and dry cleaners.

As word about Burrows spread, demand for his services grew. In addition to residential customers, he wired apartment complexes, Dr. Sistrunk’s newly built Provident Hospital and he threw the switch at the first night football game between Dillard High and Dorsey High School. Soon, eight trucks replaced the used bicycle and he and his team of employees were traveling all over Fort Lauderdale to service commercial and residential customers.

Today, Burrows has three electricians and personally visits each work site to supervise a job. He is active in the community and is president of the Negro Chamber of Commerce. He considers himself fortunate to have found a profession that he truly enjoys and says he will continue working as long as he is “healthy and well enough to move.”

## Dorsey Riverbend Association President Works on Community Projects

I am honored to introduce myself to you as President of Dorsey Riverbend Homeowners Association. It has been my good fortune to serve and be a part of this historical community for the past 15 years. During that time, I have developed a great love and respect for this community. Dorsey Riverbend’s mission is to improve the quality of life of its residents. I pledge to work shoulder to shoulder with my colleagues, community leaders and fellow neighborhood residents to share and strengthen our beloved Dorsey Riverbend. Our goals are to improve economic development opportunities for residents and business owners in the northwest corridor.

To that end, the Dorsey Riverbend Special Projects Committee has applied for grants from the City of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County to improve landscaping at Northwest 21st Avenue and Northwest 3rd Court.

I would also like to thank the following hardworking community leaders: Marsha Ellison, NAACP President, Desorae Giles-Smith, Special Projects Chairperson, Bernadette Norris-Weeks, Esq., Denise Campbell, Crime Chairperson, Louie Dowdy, Crime Vice Chairperson, State Representative Chris Smith, Esq., Rosa Bolden, Communications, Nathan Wilkerson, Code, Derric Steward, Editor, City of Fort Lauderdale and Pat Steward, Vice President.

*Submitted by LaRhonda Z. Ware, President of the Dorsey Riverbend Homeowners Association.*

Jeremy Mullings, Front Porch Community Liaison.”

Matt Walters, Chairperson of the Front Porch Council, said that at the conclusion of the sod replacement project, there will be still be more work to be done in the neighborhood.

“Front Porch is a partnership between the community and the state; we both have our respective roles. So if Front Porch’s role is to provide the sod, the resident’s role is to main-

tain it for their own good as well as the good of everyone in the community,” Walters said.

To be eligible for Front Porch benefits, a homeowner must live within the designated Front Porch Boundaries, between Andrews Avenue and NW 24th Avenue and also between Broward Boulevard and Sunrise Boulevard. Front Porch can be contacted at (954) 523-6240 or 1126 South Federal Highway, #379, Fort Lauderdale, 33316. The public is also encouraged to attend and par-

ticipate in Front Porch community meetings, which are held on the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall of St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church, 318 NW 6th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale.

More information on the Governor’s Front Porch Initiative can be obtained at [www.myflorida.com](http://www.myflorida.com).

*Submitted by Jeremy Mullings, Front Porch Community Liaison.*